

REMARKS

Claims 1-5 and 8-10 remain in this application. Claims 7-8, directed to a non-elected invention, are now canceled. Reconsideration of the application is requested.

Independent claim 1 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b), along with dependent claims 2-5 and 8-10, as anticipated by both U.S. Patent 5,794,585 to Yonezawa et al. and Japanese patent document 9-296747, also to Yonezawa et al. Reconsideration is requested. Claim 1 is amended above to reflect features discussed, for example, in the last paragraph on page 2 of the originally filed English translation, and now requires the method of this invention as including, in addition to others, the acts or operations of injecting fuel in three particularly specified partial fuel amounts and igniting a fuel/air mixture formed, by way of at least one spark plug arranged in the combustion chamber, at most 100°C_A after injection of the third partial fuel amount terminates, thereby avoiding application of said fuel to a combustion chamber wall. Neither of the Yonezawa et al. disclosures limits fuel/air mixture ignition to a maximum of 100°C_A after a third partial fuel amount termination, and neither of the Yonezawa et al. disclosures addresses minimizing application of fuel to a combustion chamber wall. Each of these features is reflected in claim 1 above, and neither of the Yonezawa et al. disclosures anticipates claim 1. Nothing noted by the Examiner, moreover, suggests modifying either of the Yonezawa et al. disclosures to meet the limitations discussed, moreover, and it is respectfully submitted that claim 1

above is patentable. The rest of the claims in this application are dependent claims and are considered patentable as well.

This application is now in allowable condition for reasons discussed above. If there are any questions regarding this Reply or the application in general, a telephone call to the undersigned would be appreciated since this should expedite the prosecution of the application for all concerned.

If necessary to effect a timely response, this paper should be considered as a petition for an extension of time sufficient to effect a timely response. Please charge any deficiency in fees or credit any overpayments to Deposit Account No. 05-1323 (Docket #095309.56010US).

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Respectfully submitted,



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APPENDIX I